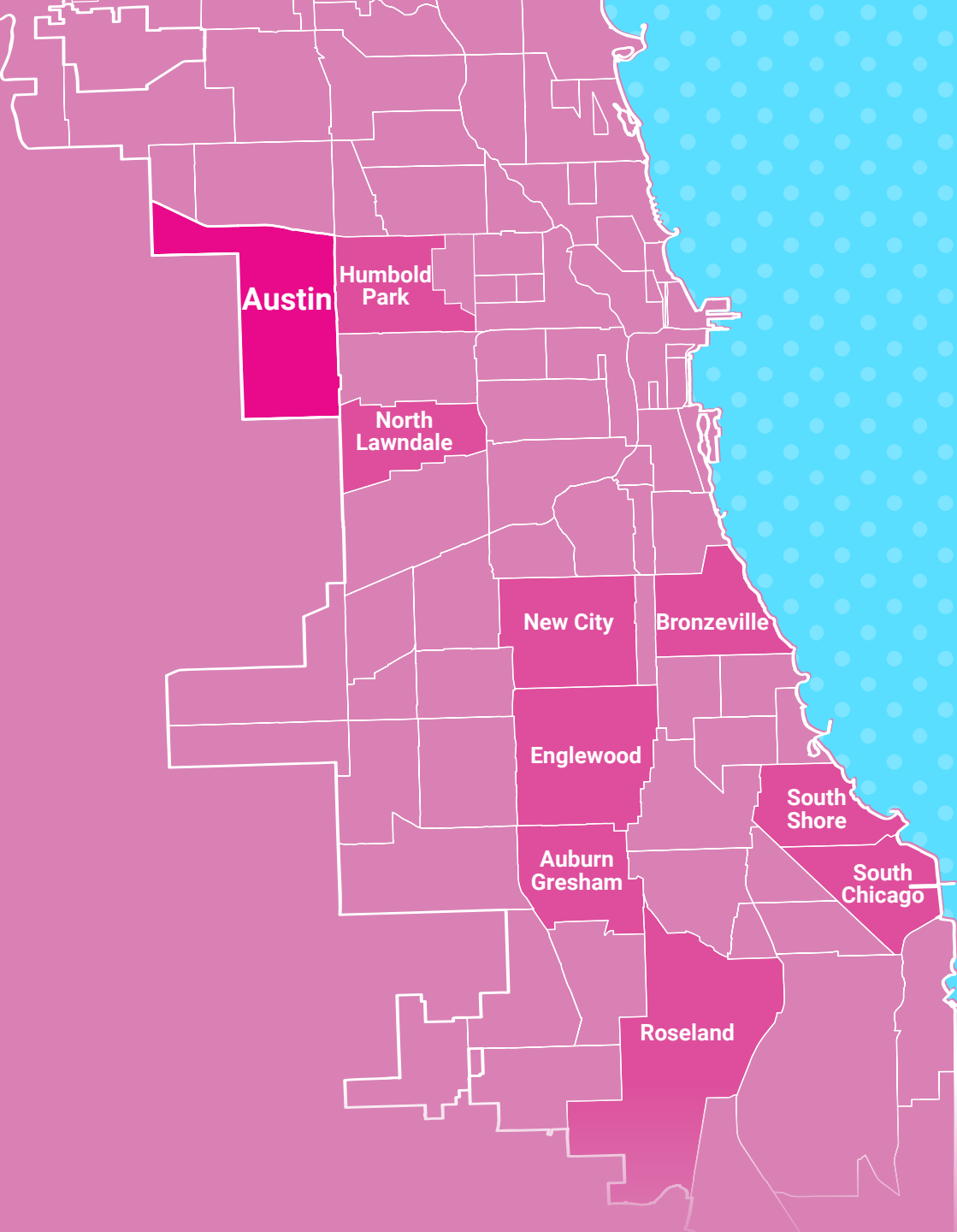




# POP COURTS!



# COMMUNITY NEEDS



The need for public open space has been especially evident during the Covid-19 lock downs which left many communities and neighborhoods without spaces to relax and recreate.

While more prominent neighborhoods in Chicago have been able to close down streets to accommodate for restaurant expansion, other communities have been struggling.

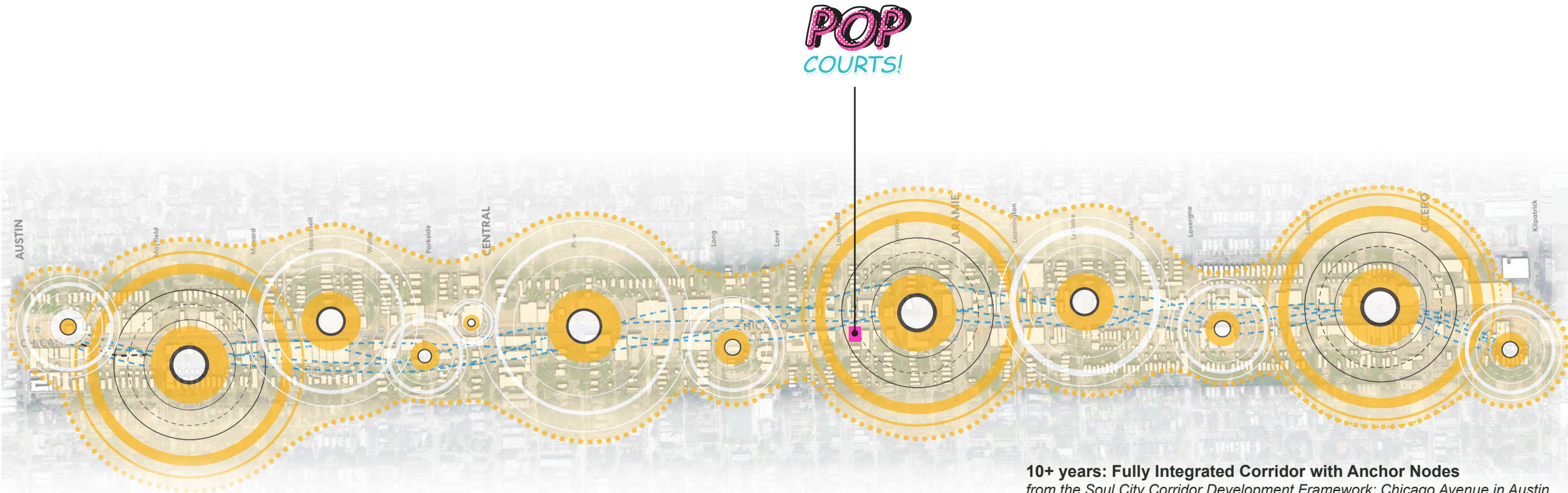
The map on the left identifies dis-invested neighborhoods on the West and South side of Chicago that have been historically forgotten. The city has made these communities a priority for new development which has prompted various organizations to create strategic development frameworks for these areas.

The design team has been involved in one such effort, looking at the Chicago Avenue corridor in the Austin Neighborhood.

# CATALYST FOR NEIGHBORHOOD

The Soul City Corridor Plan casts a big picture vision for reinvestment and economic development along a 1.6 mile corridor on Chicago Ave in the Austin Neighborhood. The plan identifies sites along the central commercial corridor which could act as a catalyst for new development and serve the neighborhood's needs and ambitions.

Situated in the middle of this corridor is our site for PopCourts!



**10+ years: Fully Integrated Corridor with Anchor Nodes**  
*from the Soul City Corridor Development Framework: Chicago Avenue in Austin*



# INVOLVED AND INCLUSIVE

The project has garnered a lot of community support. Neighbors and stakeholders gathered at the a groundbreaking last Fall. Despite the chilly weather, the event was bustling with community energy and engaged several local food vendors, a farmer's market as well as local businesses.

Several community artists have been engaged to complete the murals and art sculptures throughout the plaza.

Working with a contractor from the community, the team has been able to start the construction of the project in record time.





# UNDERUTILIZED

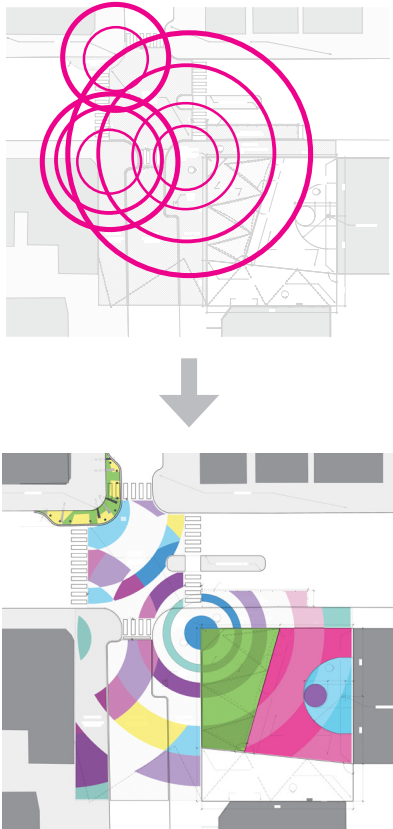


The chosen site, located on the corner of Chicago Ave. and Lockwood Ave, has laid vacant for years. It was littered with debris and has been used for informal parking.

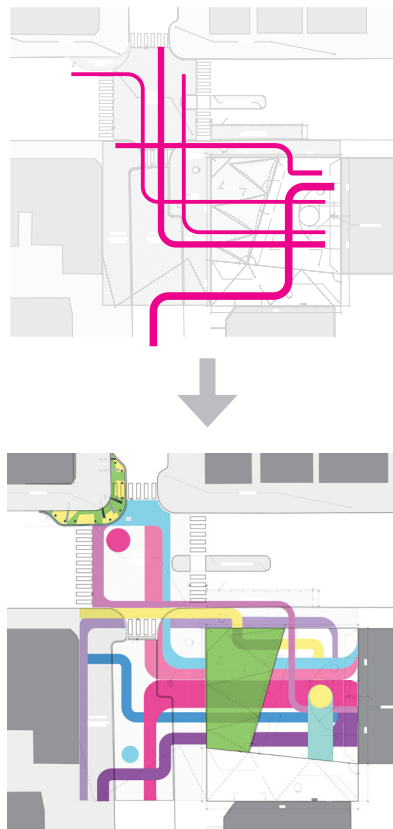


# ATTRACT

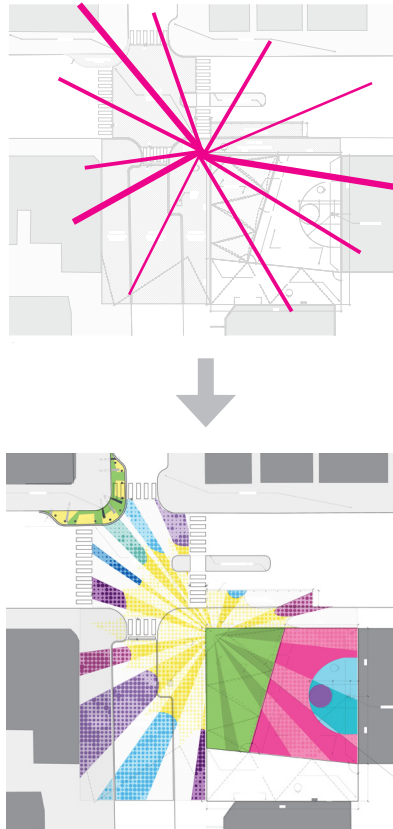
## RIPPLES



## ROOTS



## RAYS



The design team considered several factors when coming up with the framework for the street painting. The design needed to first and foremost attract the neighborhood to the site and display the liveliness of Austin.

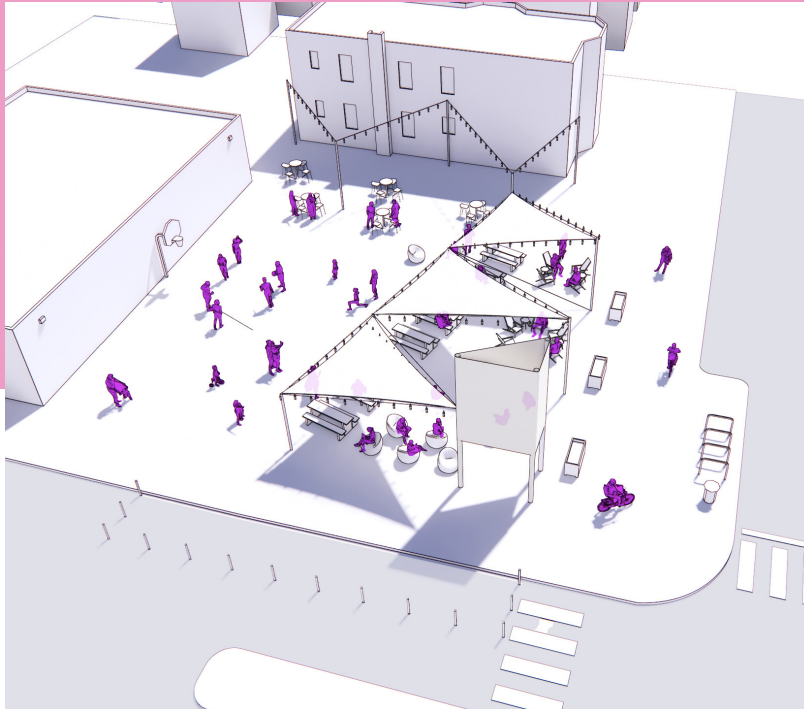
The following concepts demonstrate how the design can expand outward past the confines of the parcel; connecting with the neighborhood and adjacent businesses and gathering energy to the site.

The “rays” framework was chosen as the final design because it provided a canvas for community artists to fill in their own designs on vertical surfaces and was simple enough to be painted by volunteers on the ground plane.

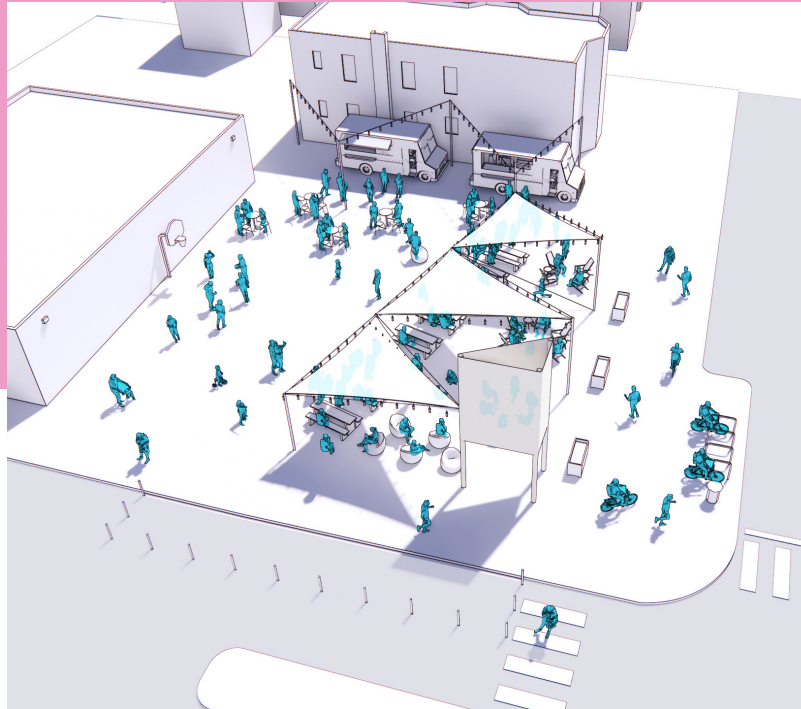


# FLEXIBLE

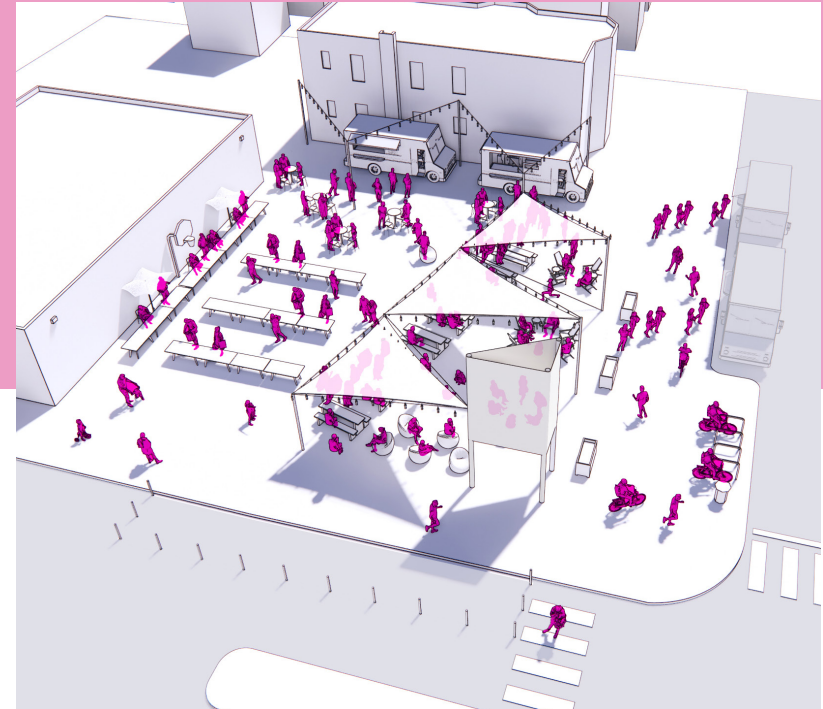
The space is designed so that it can transform depending on the time of week, month and season to accommodate various events, support local businesses and foster community connections.



**Weekday:**  
Basketball games, small group socializing, impromptu picnics, seating for adjacent businesses



**Weekend:**  
Food trucks, community gathering and socializing, casual basketball, seating for adjacent businesses



**Special Festival:**  
Vendors, DJ, food trucks, community gathering and socializing, dancing, seating for adjacent businesses



# INCUBATOR

A key concept behind PopCourts is the ability of the site to provide a space for local vendors to showcase and sell their work.

During special events and weekends, the paved basketball courts can be set up with tables and tents for farmer's markets and small businesses.





# PLAY





# GATHER





# “AN ODE TO OUR ANCESTORS”

Part of the project is a mural designed and painted by local artists from Paint the City.

“The faces in this mural are meant to inspire the Austin community that it is possible to overcome your struggles and especially for young girls to know they do have the power to change the world. It’s crucial to not only fight for your people but to build and support each other on creating stronger communities.”

-Missy Perkins  
Co-founder of Paint The City







# LEAVE YOUR MARK

Community volunteers gathered on May 15th, 2021 to assist in painting of the basketball court. On the day of the event, passerby cars slowed down, honked in support and some even got out to help paint.





# VIBRANT LIKE THE COMMUNITY







**MULTI-GENERATIONAL**



# FACES OF AUSTIN







**RIBBON  
CUTTING**





# CHILL + CELEBRATE

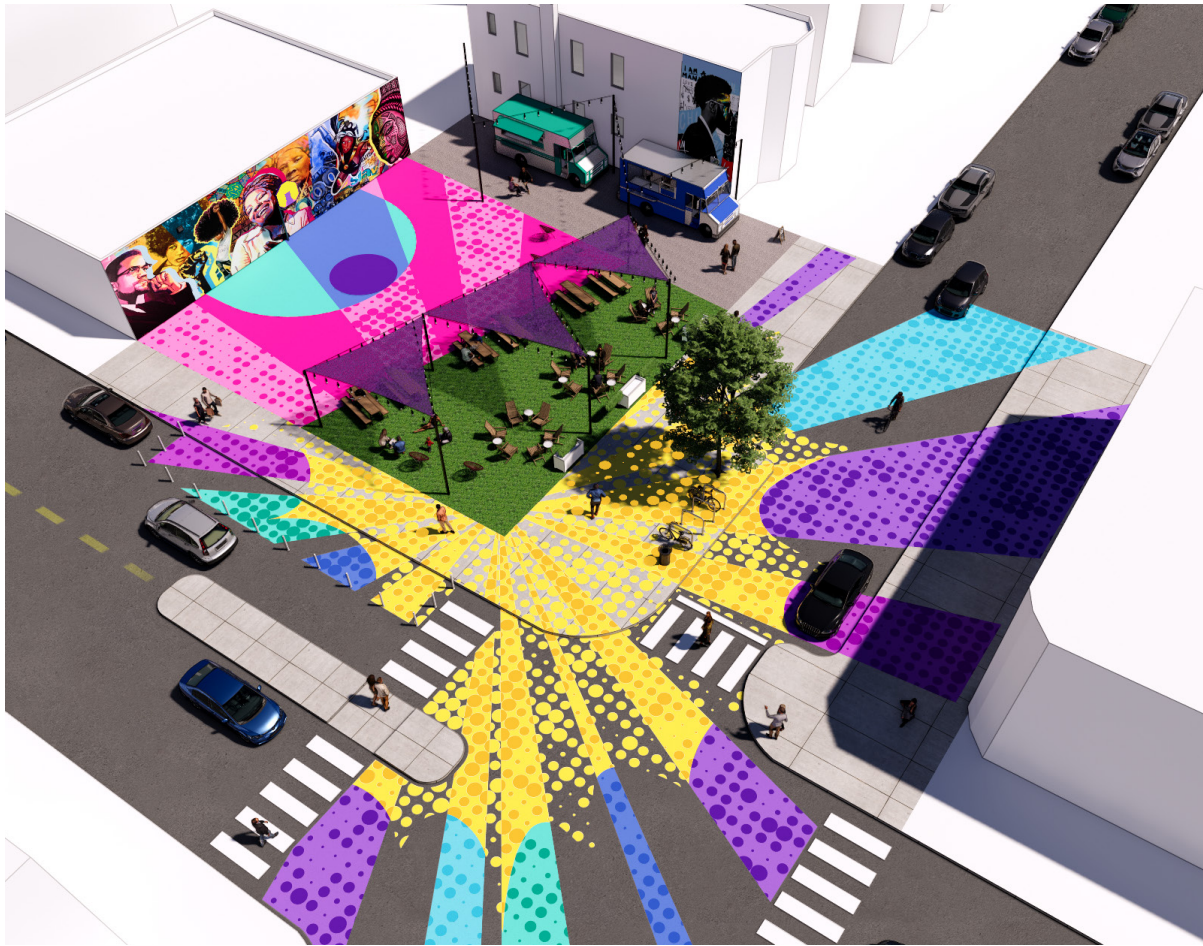




# ***UNIQUELY AUSTIN***







**RENDERING**



**REALITY**





Lastly, and most importantly, Pop Courts is an armature for the community – a space which allows for many things to happen, influenced and changed by the community itself.